

13                   GERRI SCHRODER: Good afternoon. My name is  
14 Gerri Schroder. [I'm an elected official representing  
15 thousands of men, women, families, and businesses from  
16 Ward 1 in the City of Henderson, Nevada's second largest  
17 city. First, I'd like to thank you for holding another  
18 public hearing to allow the citizens of Nevada to once  
19 again speak to you on this important issue.

20                   On a health and safety issue this critical, I  
21 trust you will take the comments that are shared today  
22 in the most serious light possible, especially given the  
23 fact that the transportation of this deadly waste is not  
24 just a Nevada issue but a national issue.

25                   I want to clearly state that I am adamantly  
1 opposed to bringing any kind of radioactive waste or  
2 spent nuclear fuel into this state, and I certainly  
3 don't want to see this dangerous material coming  
4 anywhere near the city of Henderson.

5                   We only have one environment. We cannot  
6 afford to make reckless decisions based on potentially  
7 faulty premises that prove disastrous in the future,  
8 whether that future is decades from now or centuries  
9 from now.

10                   Besides the myriad of concerns over  
11 environmental issues, one of my most serious concerns  
12 about Yucca Mountain is the short- and long-term health  
13 impacts of the people who will potentially be exposed to  
14 this deadly material. The instances of people suffering  
15 and dying from radiation poisoning from Test Site

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16 experiments are well documented.

17           Were this deadly waste to ever come to Nevada,  
18 it would be imperative that we be ready to contend with  
19 serious threats to health and human safety that would  
20 certainly accompany this material.

21           As we all know, during the weapons testing  
22 period at the Nevada Test Site, the government failed to  
23 warn its employees and the general public about the  
24 dangers of radiation. Whether purposeful or not, these  
25 were things we didn't know about the -- there were

1 things we didn't know then about the incredible dangers  
2 of this material, and we didn't know enough to ask the  
3 right questions.] ... continued

4           [Today we're smart enough to ask the right  
5 questions, but unfortunately, no one is smart enough or  
6 competent to give us accurate information. We're still  
7 dealing with a lot of unknowns here. For example, the  
8 Draft Repository SEIS details the Department of Energy's  
9 decision to change the repository surface facilities.

10           Under this proposal, TADs, or transportation  
11 aging and disposal canisters, would be used. In theory,  
12 TAD simplified the entire process by placing deadly  
13 nuclear waste into a welded canister at reactor sites.  
14 The idea is to store them at the reactor sites, then  
15 transport the canisters to Yucca Mountain where they are  
16 stored above ground until eventually placed underground.

17           It sounds logical, but doesn't this increase  
18 the risk to operators at the reactor sites? Many  
19 existing reactor sites already had dry storage

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20 facilities with container systems that are not  
21 compatible with TADs, meaning they would need to be  
22 repackaged prior to transport.

23 We need to protect workers at these sites, the  
24 environment, and communities throughout the  
25 United States where TADs would be used. This Draft SEIS  
1 does not adequately address the potential impacts and  
2 risks of this proposal to human life and the  
3 environment.]

4 [What we need is a contingency fund for health 3  
5 issues that could arise from this project. Downwinders  
6 have received nothing but smoke from the people who are  
7 charged with protecting the public. More than  
8 50 million people along the transport route could be  
9 affected, including the people who are currently working  
10 at the nuclear plants, neighborhoods where the nuclear  
11 waste will be transported through, and the people who  
12 will be storing the casks.

13 You must stop and think how will we be able to  
14 compensate the future medical bills of the people who  
15 will be exposed? Will they be treated same as the  
16 people who work at the Nevada Test Site, as well as the  
17 Downwinders? They're still fighting to get compensated  
18 for medical bills.

19 From what I understand, only a handful of  
20 those people were approved for compensation, but now  
21 there's no funding. Will the federal government deny  
22 claims based on their interpretation of human illnesses

23 and continue to ignore medical reports from doctors the  
24 same as they are doing right now with the victims of  
25 atomic testing?

1 Will Congress know what to do about this in  
2 the future or continue to argue about which federal  
3 agency will take responsibility and change the  
4 responsibility from agency to agency in order to prevent  
5 paying any compensation?

6 Although airborne contamination is not an  
7 issue, contaminated water and a contaminated environment  
8 are certainly issues that must be addressed and  
9 accounted for before a single train or truck crosses into  
10 our state.

11 The transportation of radioactive waste or  
12 spent nuclear fuel is a terrible risk to the health and  
13 safety of the people of Nevada, not to mention every  
14 other man, woman, and child that sits within proximity  
15 to the transportation routes of this toxic material  
16 across America.

17 There isn't enough economic benefit that would  
18 ever compensate for the health and wellness of the  
19 people that would be impacted by this decision. This is  
20 clearly about money, at the expense of not only the  
21 environment but the health of millions of human beings.]

... I  
Continued

22 [Until there are answers based on sound science  
23 and -- that can answer these and the many other  
24 questions about the deadly material, I am and will  
25 continue to be adamantly opposed to any plans to  
1 transport deadly nuclear waste across this great country

2 and into the great state of Nevada. } Thank you.